AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prior prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 16-40 have been entered for consideration by the Examiner.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

Claims 1. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A method for the preparation and bottling of liquids comprising:
filling one or more containers with a gas enriched liquid; and
sealing the containers pressure-tight, wherein the gas enriched liquid is kept under a nitrogen atmosphere for at least part of the time during a bottling process.

17. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 16, further comprising enriching the liquid with the gas, wherein the gas enriched liquid is kept under the nitrogen atmosphere for at least part of the time after the liquid is gas enriched.

18. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claims 17, wherein the gas enriched liquid is kept under the nitrogen atmosphere from the time of gas enrichment until the desired fill height in the container is reached.

19. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claim 16, wherein the nitrogen atmosphere is overpressurized, preferably in the range between 1 and 10 bar.

20. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claim 16, further comprising prepressurizing a container with nitrogen prior to the filling of the container with gas enriched liquid, wherein the container prepressure corresponds to the fill pressure of the gas enriched liquid.

21. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claim 16, further comprising flushing a container one or more times with nitrogen prior to the filling of the container with the gas enriched liquid.

22. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claim 20, wherein, prior to prepressurizing with nitrogen, the method further comprising evacuating the container one or more times prior to filling the container with gas enriched liquid, whereby the container is preferably evacuated prior to being prepressurized with nitrogen.

23. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 22, wherein the container is prepressurized before or after being flushed with nitrogen.

24. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claim 16, wherein when the gas enriched liquid is introduced into the container, the return gas is collected and used for flushing one or more subsequent containers.

25. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claim 16, further comprising introducing a liquid gas into the container prior to the filling of the container with gas enriched liquid.

26. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 25, wherein the liquid gas is at least one of nitrogen and oxygen.

27. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 25, wherein the liquid gas enters the container before the container is evacuated.

28. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 16, wherein the gas enriched liquid is enriched with at least one or oxygen and an oxygen/gas mixture.

29. (New) The method for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 16, wherein the container may be a bottle or a can.

30. (New) An apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids comprising:

at least one filling element having a liquid valve;

at least one gas valve;

a nitrogen-filled chamber;

a flow connection for flushing and/or prepressurizing a container with nitrogen being located between the at least one filling element and the nitrogen filled chamber through the at least one gas valve; and

a vat at least partially filled with a liquid pressured with nitrogen.

31. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 30, wherein the filling element is connected to at least one of a flush gas channel via a flush valve, and a pure gas channel via a prepressurization valve.

32. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 30, wherein the filling element is connected to at least one of a relief channel and a vacuum channel via one or more relief valves.

33. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 30, wherein a gas enriched liquid enters a partially filled tank pressurizable with nitrogen.

34. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 33, wherein the liquid in the vat is pressured with nitrogen in a range of 1 to 10 bar.

35. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 33, wherein the liquid in at least one of the vat and tank is separated from the pressure-exerting gas.

36. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 35, wherein movable floats or elastic membranes are used to separate the pressure-exerting gas.

37. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 30, wherein a device for introducing a liquid gas into an open container is operable before a filling device fills the open container with a gas enriched liquid.

38. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 30, wherein the container includes a gas enriched liquid that is enriched with oxygen, an oxygen/gas mixture, or other applicable gas.

39. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids according to claim 30, wherein the gas enriched liquid may be in dissolved form.

40. (New) The apparatus for the preparation and bottling of liquids of claim 30, wherein the container may be a bottle or a can.